Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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Administrator Unveils Future NASA Vision and a Renewed Journey of Learning

In his first major address since being sworn into office, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has outlined his strategic vision for the agency's future.

"The nation faces extraordinary new challenges. The world is changing, and if NASA is going to exploit these new opportunities then America's space program must also change," said Administrator O'Keefe. "Our future decisions will be science-driven, not destination-driven. The investments we make today must be justified by their contributions to the long-range goals of the agency."

Administrator O'Keefe spelled out NASA's vision and mission:

The new NASA vision for the future is:
To improve life here,

To extend life to there,

To find life beyond

The NASA mission is:
To understand and protect our home planet

To explore the Universe and search for life

To inspire the next generation of explorers… as only NASA can

Administrator O'Keefe outlined the importance of inspiring a new generation of explorers through education. "Education is part of our core mission," added Administrator O'Keefe.

Barbara Morgan

In an effort to take students on a new journey of learning, the Administrator unveiled plans for a new type of space explorer — an Educator Mission Specialist. Shortly after completion of the core elements of the International Space Station in 2004, NASA will send Barbara Morgan, the agency's first Educator Mission Specialist, into space.

Morgan was selected as the backup candidate in 1985 for the Teacher in Space program. She trained side-by-side with Christa McAuliffe and the Challenger crew at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. The Teacher in Space program ended when Challenger exploded Jan. 28, 1986, killing McAuliffe and her six crewmates.

"The time has come for NASA to complete the mission — to send an educator to space to inspire and teach our young people," Administrator O'Keefe said. "Working in partnership with Education Secretary Rod Paige, we will make Barbara's flight the first in a series of missions in the new Educator in Space program."

"For the past 16 years, Barbara has worked with NASA and countless science organizations, keeping alive Christa McAuliffe's inspiration. She is uniquely qualified to take our students on a journey of education that only NASA could make possible."

The new vision for the agency builds on NASA's unique capabilities as the nation's premiere aeronautics and aerospace research and technology organization.

"The biggest difference is that we will let specific science objectives tell us where to go," said Administrator O'Keefe. "NASA's mission of discovery will be carried out with a new commitment to fiscal responsibility and the synergy that comes from working with other government agencies, private industry and academia."

Hubble Space Telescope Declared Fit

After in-orbit checkouts, following deployment from Space Shuttle Columbia on March 9, the Hubble Space Telescope has been declared healthy and fit by engineers and scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Initial checkout of the spacecraft and instruments has largely been completed. However, the calibration process for the instruments will continue for another two months. The new rigid solar arrays, coupled with the new Power Control Unit, are working perfectly, generating 27 percent more electrical power than the old arrays. This increase in power roughly doubles the power available to the scientific instruments. The new reaction wheel is operating normally.

Wallops Shorts……..

Congratulations to……..

Bobby Flowers, Chief of the Sounding Rocket Program Office, who retired effective April 3 with almost 46 years of government service.

Bobby Flowers *Photo by J. Mason-Foley*

Throughout his career, Flowers provided engineering, technical and management support to many NASA programs, most notable being the Sounding Rocket Program. He provided engineering and assurance support for the Scout launch vehicle and numerous technical enhancements to NASA's sounding rocket capabilities. These include the development of NASA's Orion vehicle systems, followed by the development of the Nike Orion, Taurus Orion, the Taurus Nike Tomahawk, Black Brant XI and the Black Brant XII.

Congratulations to…….

Jay Pittman on being selected Chief of the Range and Mission Management Office (Code 840). Pittman has previously served as Associate Branch Head of the Real-Time Software Engineering Branch (Code 584.W).

Administrative Professionals Week is April 21 - 27, 2002

Since 1952, the last full week of April has been designated Administrative Professionals Week (formerly called Secretaries Week) by the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

April 24 is Administrative Professionals Day. Traditionally, bosses use this time to show their appreciation to their assistants for all of their hard work throughout the year.

Take a moment to thank the entire Wallops secretarial and clerical staff for their support.

Test Flights with the Tern UAV

Two flights of the Tern Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) were successfully conducted April 12 from Wallops Island as part of the Evolved Science Platform (ESP) project, Phase One. Each flight lasted approximately 20 minutes.

The Tern UAV carried a MicroSpectrometer developed by Jim Yungel, EG&G. Frank Hoge, NASA Observational Science Branch was the principal investigator. Good data was recorded during the flights.

Photo by Geoff Bland

Kirk Jenkins, BAI Aerosystems, does a pre-flight check on the Tern.

Manufactured by BAI Aerosystems in Easton, Md., the Tern has an 11 foot wing span is 10 feet long and has a maximum gross weight of 120 pounds. It can carry a science payload of up to 25 pounds.

Additional tests using another BAI Tern vehicle will be conducted this week.

Sympathy is extended to
the family and friends of
Robert H. Bradford
who died in Peninsula Regional
Medical Center on April 3, and
Durwood Dereng
who died in Shore LifeCare
on April 8.

Bradford retired from the NASA Wallops Procurement Office and is survived by his wife, Kathyrn; a daughter and grand-daughter and three great-grandchildren.

Dereng was a model maker for NACA Langley and a rocket technician for NASA Wallops. He retired as Head of Vehicle Preparation and Launch Branch. Dereng is survived by 5 children, 12

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For more information, call Jack Bonniwell, Site Director, at (757) 824-0763 or (757) 787-5590 or visit: www.odu.edu

Take Our Daughters
to Work Day
is April 25

Earth Day at the Visitor Center

The NASA Visitor Center (VC) will hold the following programs on April 20 to celebrate Earth Day.

10 a.m. – Marsh Walk
Learn about plants and animals living in the marsh at the VC. Guided by the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge staff.

11:15 a.m. – Phytoplankton
Find out why NASA studies phytoplankton, collect a sample and view it under a microscope.

1:45 p.m. – Biosphere
Make a biosphere in a soda bottle. Bring a two-liter bottle for this activity.

3 p.m. – Earth Jeopardy
Tests your knowledge of the Earth

All day activities include a scavenger hunt, pinecone mosquitoes, Earth Day flags, Earth-science demonstrations. For more information call the VC on x2298.

From FEDweek

April 17 Issue

Premium Pay Policy Changes

Effective April 27, several changes will be made regarding limitations on over-time and other types of premium pay such as Sunday, holiday and night pay.

One change will affect the "premium pay cap," which currently prevents employees from earning more biweekly, counting their regular salaries plus premium pay, than the local rate of a GS-15, step 10. The cap will be set according to the higher of either that rate or the biweekly rate of an Executive Level V employee.

Agency heads will be able to waive the biweekly cap for employees performing work deemed "critical to the agency's mission" and not just in emergencies that threaten life or property. Employees still will be subject to a total pay cap on a calendar year basis of the higher of those two rates.

Finally, Rain!!

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

After many months with very little rainfall, March brought us 14 days of rain, depositing 5.27 inches of precipitation on Wallops. This was 1.34 inches more than is normal for March. A total of 1.13 inches fell on March 31.

As helpful as the rainfall was, we are still well below average for the year. Snow fell briefly on the morning of March 22, depositing only a trace.

The mild temperatures we've experienced this past winter continued into March. We were 4.2 degrees above normal with an average monthly temperature of 49 degrees. The highest temperature was 79 degrees reached on March 16. This also was a record high for the date. The previous record high for March 16 was 72 degrees set in l995. The coolest overnight low was a reading of 20 degrees on the morning of March 23, tying the record low for the date set in 1986.

Wind was a factor again with 11 days with wind gusts equal or greater than 29 mph (25 knots). The fastest wind speed during March was 44 mph (38 knots) recorded March 22.

Warmer temperatures are just around the corner. In May look for high temperatures starting in the mid to upper 60s, climbing to above 75 degrees by the end of the month. Right around 50 degrees will be the normal overnight low at the beginning of the month, increasing to near 60 degrees by the end of May. The all time high for May of 97 degrees occurred on May 31, 1991. The record low of 34 degrees was recorded on May 8, 1974. We can expect 10 days with measurable rain during May giving us an average monthly total of 3.24 inches of precipitation.

Look for an increase in thunderstorm activity in May. Thunderstorms also can produce large hail, strong gusty winds and even a tornado or two.

Keep an eye on the sky as we begin to increase outside activities. Watch for darkening skies and unannounced wind gusts. Thunderstorms can occur at any time, without warning. Prime times are late afternoon and early evenings.

If you are taking a walk on the beach, working in the garden, cruising the bay or ocean or just fishing from a pier, be aware of weather changes occurring above and around you.

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